make them effective institutions of local self-governance was reiterated in the Conference. States generally expressed their commitment to achieve these.

**Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY):** While the States were satisfied with the release of the instalments and reported various levels of utilization of the cash component, it was felt that timely release of quality foodgrains from FCI godowns, and lifting and utilization of foodgrains for employment generation needed improvement.

**Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY):** Some state Ministers had highlighted the pendency of applications for sanction of laon, the time-lag between sanction of loan and disbursement and high rate of rejection of applications, under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.

**Watershed Development Programmes:** Hon'ble Prime Minister launched a new initiative of the Department of Land Resources namely 'Haryali' which aims at empowering of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Planning, execution and managing the watershed activities.

**Rural Housing:** The States highlighted the necessity of increasing per unit assistance under IAY. The problem of delay in release of 2nd instalment of funds was discussed. States were infromed about deficienceies in proposals and clarifications that were needed for processing them so that second instalment could be released.

**Monitoring andVigilance:** Regarding the reconstitution ofVigilance and Monitoring Committees at district level (with MP, LS, as Chairperson), some of the state representatives felt that this contradicts the spirit of decentralization process and Panchayati Raj Institutions would be denied their due rights. A request was, therefore made for reviewing the reconstitution of V and M Committees. Some States also desired that they may be allowed to nominate some members of these Committees.

**Involvement of Panchayats in water management**

162. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently started Water Management plans for villages involving Panchayats; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched a new initiative namely "Hariyali" on 27.1.2003. Under this initiative, all watershed development programmes (DPAP, DDP and IWDP) of the Department of Land Resources would be implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI). The basic features of "Hariyali" are given below:

Under this initiative, the Gram Sabha would replace the Watershed Association and the Gram Panchayat would execute the watershed project with technical support from the Block Panchayat who would act as the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for all watershed projects in a particular Block. In case the Block/Zilla Panchayat has no technical staff to support the Gram Panchayats, suitable Government Line Department/Autonomous Agency may be identified for the purpose. Failing all these options, a reputed voluntary organization (NGO) of good operational/Financial standing in the district with adequate technical expertise and experience would be identified to act as the PIA. This initiative is applicable to all new watershed development projects to be sanctioned in future.

**Deplorable condition of landless rural people**

163. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deplorable condition of landless rural people;

(b) if so, whether more land reforms work would be taken up for redistribution of land among the landless and dalits; and

(c) the other steps taken to improve the rural economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) Land and its management falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the respective State Governments as provided under Entry No. 18, List-II (State List) of Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Central Government plays an advisory and coordinating role in the field. However, the